

> ...
Dear FCC...

I wish to support automatically upgrading Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. In my own case, I have been licensed since 1958- progressing from Novice to General to Advanced.

Most colleges will grant credits for "Life experience" in particular fields. As an example, in 1982 I was granted 34 credits towards an Associate degree in Electronics Technology because of work experience and attendance at the Signal School at Ft. Gordon, GA and the Signal School at Ft. Monmouth, NJ- even though the schools were attended over 20 years previously. While examinations do set a certain standard for qualification nothing beats experience. In addition, examinations conducted, in my case over 30 years ago, were much stricter and demanding.

In addition, with FCC changes, many licensees were "grandfathered" to a higher grade- with the exception of holders of the Advanced Class license.

The FCC has fully admitted the technical difference between the Advanced Class and the Extra class is "minimal". This fact along with a recognition of licensed "Life experience" as a holder of an Advanced license of 20 years should suffice. In fact, the FCC could grandfather all Advanced licensees under the former premise and eliminate this class of license and the burden of dealing with it. Why maintain a license grade that is no longer issued?

Sincerely,

James W Beckett

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